

**Mr Joe Grant,  
Secretary,  
Strathclyde Police Federation,  
151, Merrylee Road,  
GLASGOW G DL**

**8, Glendoune Road,  
Clarkston.  
GLASGOW G7 7TT**

**24, February, 2000.**

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

Dear Joe,

Thank you for your letter of 18, February, 2000. I value your continued interest in this matter.

Despite your statement to the contrary it is clear that you and Tom Rowat have no idea of the trauma that Shirley and our family have suffered and are still suffering.

In fairness I do not expect you to know. Experience is the only teacher.

The clinical psychologist's reports of 30 and 31, January, 2000, clearly lay out her assessment of Shirley's psychological state should she be forced to relive the events of the last three years yet again.

In her first report the psychologist states, 'I do not believe that it would be in her (Shirley's) best interests psychologically if she had to describe and divulge her story to yet another professional in a non-therapeutic context. This is again likely to retraumatise her.'

Her second report concludes, 'I have no doubt the symptoms and disorders described in this report, including depressed mood, anxiety and post traumatic stress, are directly related to Ms McKie's experiences arising from her duties, and from the devastating accusations and ordeals stemming from one particular criminal investigation.'

Unfortunately the ordeal continues with the Federation playing a part in maintaining it.

Do you realise what it is like living day in and day out for three years fighting for your reputation and survival? Have you ever felt totally overwhelmed by it all, sick, depressed and despairing that once again you have to go through the whole unbearable process of satisfying yet another bureaucracy and persuading them that you have a case? How many times is Shirley going to be tried? When is she going to be believed?

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While I respect you and your opinions your statement that you believe Shirley's 'best interests lie in being represented by Messrs. Hughes Dowdalls' is not supported by the evidence of our experience to date with lawyers and the psychologist's reports.

I repeat. Shirley has been brought to the edge of suicide by this affair. This situation cannot be allowed to continue.

Just as a light appears at the end of the tunnel she is once again fighting the system for what is rightfully hers.

Shirley is prepared to continue working with Hughes Dowdalls in respect of her injury claim because they have initiated procedures.

She cannot, however, contemplate being represented by them in any civil litigation where she will have to relive the trauma and keep psychological wounds raw and open.

As previously requested she wishes the services of Cassells and Co. whom, as I have explained, are totally aware of the complexities of her case.

There are no resource or other considerations involved in reversing your decision. Only the exercise of common sense and compassion. If there are procedural difficulties you can be assured of our full support in dealing with them.

I believe that the rules give you discretion in these matters. I urge you to use that discretion. Please reconsider your decision and avoid denying Shirley her moral and legal rights.

Yours sincerely,

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**Iain A J McKie**